

Jo Bonner

THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

315 Cannon House Office Building ★ Washington, DC 20515 ★ (202) 225-4931 ★ July 2004

TOWN MEETINGS SET FOR AUGUST

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a member of Congress is the opportunity to serve the people you've been elected to represent. Part of this service comes in considering and voting on legislation pending before Congress.

But another important element of what I view as effective representation is visiting with my constituents. One of the ways I do this is through town hall meetings, and we've held 76 since I was first sworn in as a member of Congress just twenty months ago.

For the month of August, we've added 14 more town meetings to our schedule. Please look over the list below and find a time and location that is most convenient for your schedule.

Typically, there are any number of important issues being considered by Congress, and these meetings are a good way for you to come out and let me know your views. I hope to see you next month.

Wednesday, August 25

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Dauphin Island, Town Hall

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Eight Mile, Indian Springs
Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Satsuma, City Hall

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bucks, White House Family
Restaurant

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wagarville, Wagarville Nutrition
Center

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Grove Hill, Town Hall

Thursday, August 26

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Peterman, Peterman Baptist
Church Fellowship Hall

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Uriah, Country Kitchen
Highway 21

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Canoe, Canoe Civic Club

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

East Brewton, City Hall

Friday, August 27

8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Josephine, Volunteer Fire
Department

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Bon Secour, Volunteer Fire
Department

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Point Clear, St. Francis at the
Point Episcopal Church

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Stapleton, Volunteer Fire
Department

ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION SUPPORTS PERSONNEL, FAMILIES

The men and women of our armed forces contribute significantly to the safety of our nation and our interests abroad and selflessly put their lives on hold to volunteer for service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. Along with their sacrifices, the families of these service members — whether active duty, reserve, or retired — make their own significant contributions to their communities and their country.

In times such as these, however, when the war on terrorism has taken tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to points around the globe, it is important we remember that these personnel and their families may also need help. One of the organizations formed to provide much needed assistance to these families is the Armed Forces Foundation.

Formed to promote the morale, quality of life, and welfare of our entire armed forces community, the foundation has done tremendous work to assist these men, women, and children. From providing Wal-Mart gift certificates to enlisted soldiers and their families for use at Christmas to sending pictures of military dependent children with Santa to their parents deployed overseas, the Armed Forces Foundation has gone above and beyond to provide the support and encouragement these families need during difficult times of war and separation.

Last year, the foundation donated 100 percent of all outstanding contributions it received to deployed military families.

I would encourage you to visit the foundation's website, www.armedforcesfoundation.org, to learn more about how you can support our troops here at home and abroad.



I recently had the pleasure of meeting several members of the Mobile Symphony at an event at Bellingrath Gardens. Pictured with me from l-r are: Paul Hanceri, Enen Yu, and Wendy Klopfenstein.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

During my first 19 months in the House of Representatives, one of my priorities has been working for stronger economic growth in south Alabama. We have indeed seen some remarkable economic news on a national level, but it is important that we as a region work to ensure these benefits are felt by our cities and counties on the Gulf Coast.

Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans has also been a strong proponent for economic growth and business development during his tenure in the current administration. Many of you will recall that Secretary Evans attended the regional leadership summit held in Mobile last November and delivered some very strong remarks on what we can do to improve our region, our state, and our nation. In addition to our traditional business leaders, our future economic growth will depend heavily upon the efforts of our minority business owners and entrepreneurs.

In continuing this theme of growth, Secretary Evans and the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency will be hosting the 22nd Annual National Minority Enterprise Development Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference has been scheduled for the week of September 6-10, 2004, and will be held at Washington's Omni Shoreham Hotel. The theme of this year's conference will be, "Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority." Conference sessions are being planned to showcase business opportunities and issues affecting the growth of minority-owned businesses.

Like Secretary Evans, I firmly believe it is important that the minority business market maintain and expand its stake in the national economy, and I would encourage anyone interested in this conference to visit the Minority Business Development Agency's website, www.mbda.gov.



My wife, Janée, and I recently had the honor of visiting with former President and Mrs. George Bush at their family home in Kennebunkport, Maine. Janée and I were in town for a wedding and happened to run into the former president at church on Sunday. We were very pleased to join them for lunch that afternoon.



FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO WEBSITE PLANNED

Any of you who are regular visitors to my office's Internet website will probably have noticed a recent facelift to our homepage. Many of these changes, you should know, are in direct response to suggestions and constructive comments you have made over the past 19 months. Naturally, all of these updates are intended to make our homepage even more user-friendly and to provide a wider range of services.

While many of the options located on our previous web page are still there, a number of new features have been added, including a "hot topics" section that will be updated periodically with important news, links to reports and white papers, and informal on-line polls on major issues of the day.

In addition to posting my weekly news columns and radio shows on the site, I will also begin in the very near future to post my weekly television show which is broadcast on WKRG-TV 5 in Mobile. While I have been overwhelmed by the tremendous number of positive comments and feedback on the show, I know there are many people in the First District who have other commitments on Sunday mornings that prevent them from seeing the show. As such, I am hopeful that adding these shows to the website will provide viewers with an additional opportunity to watch the current show or archived episodes from previous weeks.

My office is constantly striving to be as accessible as possible, and my Internet website is just one of the many tools we use to reach all of you in south Alabama. I hope you will continue to provide me with your comments and good suggestions and that you will visit our website — located at <http://bonner.house.gov> — on a regular basis.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

Thank you so much for your assistance in helping me obtain the Medicare Insurance I so desperately needed. I tried to work with the Social Security Office but simply could not get the help I required. As a senior citizen on a fixed income and a congestive heart failure patient, I was very concerned about a lapse in my insurance coverage after July 1st. Your concern and action was the reason I have been able to secure the proper insurance from Medicare to which I am entitled. I also want to give a special thanks to Miss Kay in your office. She was particularly helpful in this situation.

*Respectfully,
A thankful Medicare recipient
July 19, 2004*

